THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In compliance of the Supreme Court's order, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued directions in the months of May and October, 2002 respectively, to the various State Governments and Union Territory Governments to deal with the issue of the encroachments seriously and evict the ineligible encroachers from the forest lands in a time bound manner as per the guidelines of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Also, the various State Governments/UT Governments have been told that the eviction process should be monitored at the highest level and accountability should be fixed for inaction.

(c) Biotic pressure on forests increases with encroachment on forest lands. Though, encroachment may not be direct and the main cause of extinction of animal species, it certainly makes flora and fauna endangered and thus it may cause extinction ultimately.

(d) Government is committed to remove all ineligible encroachments from forest lands and protected area with the help of the State Governments/UT Governments in accordance with the law.

Japanese assistance to clean Ganga

384. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation propose to take up a project to improve the quality of water in the river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed in this regard; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Japan International Cooperation Agency of the Government of Japan has recently agreed to provide technical assistance for taking up a study on 'Water Quality Management Plan

for river Ganga'. The objective of the study is to (i) formulate the Master Plan for water quality management for the Ganga basin concerning liquid waste, and (ii) formulate feasibility studies for high priority projects identified in the Master Plan focusing on four towns namely, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Lucknow. It will take two years to complete the study.

Impact of Delhi declaration on climate change on industry

385. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi draft declaration on climate change skipped any mention of the Kyoto Protocol, considered central to retard the current rate of climate change;

(b) whether there was any decision related to building the capacity of the countries that of the least developed one to tackle the adverse impact of the climate change;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the impact of the draft declaration on climate change on the Indian industry?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Delhi Declaration adopted by consensus by all Parties on 1st November 2002 strongly urges Parties that have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol to do so in a timely manner. The Declaration enjoins that effective and result-based measures should be supported for the development of approaches at all levels for Capacity Building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies. These measures are to include full implementation of existing commitments under the Convention and the Marrakesh Accords. The Conference also advanced operationalisation of Special Climate Change Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund for providing financial resources to the developing countries. The Conference decided that the Global Environment Facility should, on matters relating to Capacity Building, further the prompt implementation of the relevant decisions on the subject. The Conference concluded three years of